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March 1, 2018

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION SECRETA

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman Commissioner Nanci Langley Commissioner Mark Acton **Postal Regulatory Commission** 901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20268 RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

As an organization grounded in the Catholic faith, our mission is to work for a world where people are treated with greater dignity, particularly those marginalized by poverty, inequality, and injustice. Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will limit our ability to utilize direct mail to inform, engage, and seek support from those we work with across the United States.

I deeply hope that you will reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Christopher G. Kerr Executive Director